

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A distributed control system having system components (1, 2, 3). The positions of the system components (1, 2, 3) are stored in respective memories (11, 12, 13) as component-specific data, which represent the spatial coordinates of the positions. The system components (1, 2, 3) transmit their respective positions to a configuration unit (4) via a communications channel (5). By means of a layout plan, e.g., in the form of a piping and installation diagram, the component-specific data of the individual system components (1, 2, 3) is assigned to the configured system components. In addition, a respective physical address is assigned to each of the system components (1, 2, 3). This achieves simple and reliable configuration of the system components (1, 2, 3). The distributed control system is used, in particular, in process apparatuses.